

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 2nd December 1899.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Basumati* of the 23rd November has the following:—

BASUMATI,
Nov. 23rd, 1899.

ASTUTE RUSSIA.

RUSSOPHOBIA.

Rumoured advance of Russia on Herat.

Any mention of the word Russia, the mere reading of the letters which form the word, has somehow the effect of rolling up the heart. We feel alarmed; we know not what it is that we dread, but the mind becomes unaccountably uneasy, as if the blood has ceased to circulate, as if the two eyes have ceased to move. Why all this takes place we do not know. We have neither seen Russia at any time nor do we understand the system of Russian administration. Still we experience a feeling which we cannot explain to ourselves. We have heard of the painful sensation of being burnt in a slow fire—in a fire which is fed by the paddy husk. This seems to be something exactly like that! Here also is that slow spread of the fire, that slow process of reducing to ashes, that slow escape of life from the body. Everything takes place slowly—so slowly, indeed, that it is not always perceptible, nor is it possible to distinguish the first outbreak of the fire from its subsequent spread. But nothing can prevent or resist its approach, and whatever comes in contact with it is completely reduced to ashes.

THE SNAKE SWALLOWING ITS PREY.

From the time of the powerful Russian Czar, Peter the Great, down to the present year, which is almost the commencement of the twentieth century, Russia has been slowly swallowing the continent of Asia after the fashion of a snake swallowing its prey, and, like a fire fed by the paddy husk, is slowly reducing it to ashes. Where is Askabad? Where is Astrakhan? Where, again, are Samarkand and Bokhara? Where are Merv and Panjdeh? Where, now, are Herat and Seistan? Though so distant, the gigantic Russian snake is very slowly advancing towards them with its widely-opened huge mouth, while its vast hood is bent and thrown backward. When after conquering Askabad and vanquishing and crushing the dreadful Tekke Turkomans on the battle-field, Russia swallowed Samarkand and Bokhara—nay, the whole of Tartary, we thought that we, the people of India, that is, had no cause for anxiety until she came to Merv. At length Merv was lost; Panjdeh was lost; even a corner of Balkh, one of the northern provinces of Afghanistan, was lost, and the forked tongue of Russia was protruded on to the Pamir plateau, the highest table-land in the world. We heard everything; we understood everything. We drew a long-drawn sigh of confidence, and said that we Indians had no reason to feel uneasy until Russia knocked at the gate of Herat. Again, in another direction, namely, in the north of Persia, that land of beauty, pleasure and wealth, the Caucasus and Azerbaijan provinces were annexed by Russia. Under oppression by the Russian Bear, Armenian women, so celebrated for their beauty, withered away like creepers cut at the root; that earthly paradise was converted into hell. Even then did we console ourselves with the thought that we Indians had no cause for anxiety until Russia was able to take possession of Seistan and a good port on the Arabian coast.

FACTS OF HISTORY.

The British Government would seem to have always acted to the tune of our fears and anxieties. Readers of history will probably remember that, in the time of Lord Amherst, Sir Henry Pottinger was sent as English Envoy to Persia and Central Asia; and how Russian statesmen dissuaded him from his purpose by specious assurances, and what led Dost Muhammad, Yar Muhammad and Shah Suja ultimately to seek the protection of the English. They will also remember the reason why, before the outbreak of the Sepoy Mutiny, Sir James Outram was about to lead an expedition to Persia. The Mutiny broke out, and that expedition was not undertaken. The mealy-mouthed and sweetly-smiling Russian statesmen pleased the British Government with reassuring words. Then came the Russo-Turkish war, and when

Skobeleff and Osman Pasha were showing their prowess on the battle-field, even then did Russia most astutely swallow a bit of Persian territory, which not even the strenuous efforts of Lord Beaconsfield could make her disgorge. At this time General Charles Macgregor visited Central Asia and travelled through the Russian empire, and after his return to England recommended a conquest of Afghanistan. Next followed the Afghan War in the time of Lord Lytton. The treachery of Shere Ali, the astuteness of Russian intriguers, the massacre of Sir Louis Cavagnari, the meanness of Yakub Khan, General Roberts' heroism, the defeat of the Afghans, and, lastly, the installation on the Afghan throne of the poor, disgraced and exiled Abdur Rahman, that *protégé* of Russia, are events which occurred in the course of that war. Lord Lytton's conquest of Afghanistan was exactly like the attempt of a snake to swallow a mole. Captivated and compelled by the wiles of Russian diplomacy, the English, as it were, madly desired to place that Russian *protégé* on the Afghan throne. Sir Peter Lumsden's Boundary Commission came next. The wiles and intrigues of that Russian officer—half-Russian and half-Musalman—Colonel Alikhanoff, the affront put on Sir Peter, his resignation and return to London, the muddle of a settlement made by Colonels Yates and Ridgeway, and the annexation of Panjdeh, are all probably in the recollection of the public. Like ague fits, these incidents have from time to time come to their minds and been forgotten.

HEAR AGAIN TO-DAY

The fearful news which Reuter has telegraphed to us:—

THE RUSSIAN ADVANCE ON HERAT.

THE MILITARY RAILWAY.

LONDON, Tuesday, November 14.

THE *Times* correspondent at St. Petersburg states that the fullest preparations are now completed for a Russian advance on Herat at any moment, the alleged reason being apprehension of the disturbances which would follow in the event of the Amir's death. The military railway from Merv to Kushk is in perfect order, and strong fortresses have been constructed at Kushk and Karki, for which 150 guns and several regiments have already arrived. Complete material for the line to Herat, including special trucks to convey guns, has arrived at Kushk.

Hear, again, the news which has come from the Persian coast:—

A RUSSIAN GUNBOAT TO THE PERSIAN GULF.

BOMBAY,

November 17th.

A Russian gunboat has just passed Aden, and is understood to have gone to the Persian Gulf. H. M. S. *Pomone*, second-class cruiser, has left Aden for the Persian Gulf.

This is the sound of Russia's war drum, this the wide opening of her mouth in dreadful hunger. The English are busy in the Transvaal war, and the huge Russian snake is about to make another advance in Asia. This is Russia's wonted astuteness. If the English can now kill the Boer mouse and, flushed with victory, return to their native country after annexing the Transvaal, Russia will say—"Fie upon it! Can man do any such thing? Is it proper to rob a relation? The English are our near relations. The Englishman and the Russian are for ever bound by the sweetest and the most indissoluble ties in this world, namely, the ties of matrimony. Can Russia rob England of what belongs to her?" And when Russia says this, the English, who will have become flushed with victory, elated with joy, and tired of war, will feel reassured by her sweet words. But the point to which Russia may have advanced in the meantime will remain the furthest limit of her territories, and she will not move or recede even if England asks her to do so; for it is not in her nature to move or go back. That is why we were saying that any mention of the word Russia somehow pains our heart.

RUSSIAN MOVES.

Russia moves her pawns, anticipating the next ten moves on the part of her opponent, and does not change or withdraw from her plans. The reader may remember that when negotiations were in progress between the English Government and President Kruger, it was given out in a Russian newspaper that the Amir of Afghanistan was dying, that his two sons were about to fight with each other over the question of succession to the *gadi*, and that there was great unrest in Cabul. The statement was contradicted in an English paper. Be that as it may, Russia is making preparations to invade Herat at this time when England is beset with dangers. And if the time proves favourable, she will invade Herat.

BAZAR RUMOURS.

Already there have been rumours in Calcutta to the effect that a telegram has been received from England, directing all British and native regiments in all frontier stations to hold themselves in readiness for war, and asking the Viceroy to return from his tour and make all necessary arrangements for an invasion of Afghanistan. Another rumour is that all these orders have been cancelled, and it has been directed that to prevent a panic among the native population everything must be done quietly and secretly. Of course, all these are false rumours, but they show the current of popular thought and feeling.

THE SHAH OF PERSIA.

Hear of another move on the part of Russia. On the commencement of hostilities in the Transvaal, it was stated in a Russian newspaper that the Shah of Persia was extremely unwell, and that his death would lead to an outbreak of disturbances in that country, &c., &c. Now, hear what the Shah's medical adviser says:—

I beg to inform those whom it may interest that the Shah's mental condition is, and always has been, perfect, that his physical state has not been so good as it is now for many years past. The gouty affection of the kidneys from which his Imperial Majesty has suffered for a long time has, since his accession to the throne, and the consequent change of climate from Tabrez to Teheran, almost entirely disappeared; and with the exception of occasional very slight attacks of gout, his Imperial Majesty is in very good health. As a proof of which, he was able only a few weeks ago to ascend a mountain much higher than Mont Blanc in search of game, and after having killed his quarry, descended on foot more than half the distance.—I am, Sir, Yours obediently, HUGH ADCOCK, Consulting Physician-in-Chief to the Shah, Teheran, Persia, September 4th.

In spite of this authoritative contradiction, Russian men-of-war are entering the Persian Gulf and Russian soldiers are ready to enter Persia as soon as they receive orders to do so.

IN THE FAR EAST.

Russia is trying with the help of Japan to take possession of Corea, and has for that purpose assured the United States Government that there is no foundation for the rumour that she is not on good terms with Japan, the fact being that she is as much anxious as Japan for maintaining the independence of Corea.

2. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 23rd November has the following:—

Indian opinion on the Transvaal war.

The Indians are variously criticising the actions of the British Government in South Africa. Some of them are condemning the manner in which the Transvaal warfare is being conducted, some call the British troops sent out to the Transvaal cowards, and some say that the action taken by the British Government was premature. A few among them say that it ought not to have come forward to fight single-handed. It follows from this that the British Government is paying in vain for the services of Lord Salisbury, Mr. Chamberlain and Lord Lansdowne, and that what these statesmen could not do could be done by these ignorant Indian fools. The British Government ought to dismiss these

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
Nov. 23rd, 1899.

statesmen, and in their stead call some Indian fools to the British Parliament, so that they may manage matters according to their whims. These ignorant people who do not know how to manage themselves have the foolhardiness to go the length of discussing politics.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
Nov. 23rd, 1899.

3. The same paper says that the Transvaal war has created a sensation all over the world. Is it not England whose brave hero earned the title of Cœur de Lion in the war

The Transvaal war.

between the Cross and the Crescent? Is it not England who carried on the Hundred years War with France? Is it not England who destroyed the formidable Spanish Armada? Is it not England whose brave General Wellington captured Napoleon, whose sword created a thrilling sensation throughout Europe? Is it not England who, after the battle of Waterloo, has been carrying her victorious standard throughout the world? Are not the English soldiers the worthy sons of those who were so brave and so famous? Indeed, they are. They have inherited the courage and heroism of their fathers. Why have they not yet crushed the Boers? Everything requires time, and in time they will give the Boers the chastisement they deserve. The Transvaal reverses are due to the mistakes committed by British statesmen. At the outset they could not make a proper estimate of the numerical strength of the Boer army and of their strategical advantages. England has been very slow in sending succour to those who are fighting with great heroism in the Transvaal. This unusual delay has emboldened the Boers, and has afforded them a great advantage against the English troops. The Boers have advanced as far as Khama, which is very close to the German colony in Africa. If they succeed in capturing that place, they will easily open communications with Germany.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 24th, 1899.

4. The *Hitavadi* of the 24th November has the following with reference to the Indian refugees from the Transvaal:—

The Indian refugees from the Transvaal.

These unfortunate people are in great distress in Bombay. Those who once rolled in luxury and had servants to minister to their wants are now compelled to live as beggars, helpless and shelterless. We fail to understand why the British Agent at Delagoa Bay did not try his best to protect the Indian refugees against oppression by Portuguese officials. We fail to understand why these refugees have been conveyed to Bombay instead of being taken to Natal. We also fail to understand why the food given to the refugees on board was so insufficient, especially when that food was to be paid for, not by the Captain, but by the Government. Would the British Agent allow the Portuguese officials to ill-treat English refugees in this way, or would they be fed in this niggardly way on board? We put these questions to the Government, which we know to be a just and impartial Government.

Subscriptions are being raised both in England and India for the relief of the families of the English soldiers killed in the Transvaal war. Thousands of rupees have already been raised in India. But will not the just and kindhearted English nation come forward to help the robbed Indian refugees from the Transvaal? Indian millionaires should not also remain indifferent at this critical moment.

BANGAVASI,
Nov. 25th, 1899.

5. The *Bangavasi* of the 25th November has the following:—

General Joubert.

Bravo! Joubert, old Boer General, bravo! What was considered to be impossible has become possible in you. Brave as you are, you have achieved what nobody ever thought or believed to be achievable. A fly, you have fought with fire. A hare, you have tormented the lion. A dwarf, you have, so to say, touched the moon with your hand. Bravo! General Joubert, bravo!

The war was declared on the 11th October, and a month and-a-half have passed since then, but the British army has not yet been able to invade your country. On the contrary, you have invaded British territory, and have in many places surrounded British troops with their Generals. Your tactics have taken the whole world by surprise.

The British evacuated Charleston and New Castle without striking a blow. They also evacuated Laing's Nek, perhaps considering their position untenable. After leaving these places to you, the British army under General Symmons encamped at Dundee and Glencoe, and prepared themselves for a fight. Then came the bloody battle of Glencoe, in which the invincible

British soldiers defeated you after showing unparalleled heroism and dislodged your army from the hill which they had occupied. But defeated, you gave proofs of a wonderful strategic skill; you captured and sent to Pretoria a squadron of British cavalry which had pursued your routed soldiers.

The next moment we saw your soldiers surrounding Glencoe like a swarm of locusts. We also saw General Symmons seriously wounded in action and lying on his deathbed, General Yule commanding the army in his place. Surrounded by innumerable Boer soldiers, General Yule made up his mind to evacuate Glencoe. He retired at dead of night without the knowledge of the enemy. You had posted strong forces at Elands Laagte and Reitfontein, and they would have certainly captured the retiring British army if General White had not come out of Ladysmith and repulsed the Boer forces with great loss. Your tactics, it is true, failed on this occasion; but still nothing could oppose the progress of your army. In the twinkling of an eye you led twenty thousand Boers to Ladysmith and invested that place with magical celerity. You placed big guns on commanding positions, and in a sanguinary battle you captured more than a thousand British soldiers. It is three weeks since you invested Ladysmith, but within this long period the British army has not been able to compel you to raise the siege. General White is so closely surrounded by the Boer army that he is communicating with the British head-quarter at Durban with the help of pigeons. The world wonders at the skill with which you have been able to keep a British army of ten or fifteen thousand soldiers so long confined with the help of an army of not more than fifteen or twenty thousand soldiers. It is true that the invested British army is now and then making sorties and tormenting your soldiers with a heavy cannonade. It is true that your soldiers are being now and then repulsed. But still you are firm, surrounding General White and his army on all sides.

But this is not all. Keeping the British General thus invested, you have sent troops further south into Natal. You have occupied Colenso and destroyed the bridge over the Tugela river, which cost lakhs of rupees. Your troops have also invaded the Zululand, which is under British protection, and are pillaging that country. We also hear that Boer troops led by you have taken up a position before Estcourt and are awaiting an encounter with British troops. We also hear that an army of ten thousand British soldiers is marching towards Estcourt, and this is perhaps the circumstance which has necessitated your presence in that place. A great battle is impending at Estcourt.

Your troops have occupied some towns and villages in Cape Colony. You have destroyed the railway line and bridge near the Orange Free State. You have repulsed the British troops marching to the relief of Kimberley. Your friends as well as your enemies are loud in your praise. You have filled the whole world with your fame.

Last week we learnt with pleasure that you had been killed in action at Ladysmith. Your fame is now at its zenith, and it is desirable that you should die. Fortunate is that General who can die in action in the heyday of his fame and glory. Brave Joubert! this is why the news of your death delighted us. Human life is, to use an Indian metaphor, as evanescent as a drop of water on a lotus leaf. To die in action is to go to heaven. Death was desirable for you, brave Joubert! You are now in the zenith of fame and glory. Like the full moon in the autumnal sky, you are shining in the political firmament. But every rise must have a fall. After the full moon must come the new; after light, darkness. The sweet spring must be followed by the hot summer. Death, we therefore say again, was desirable for you.

Lo! innumerable British troops have landed in South Africa. The ever-victorious Sir Redvers Buller will lead these troops to action. Their bayonets, their rifles, their artillery are glittering in the sun. The British Lion has been roused and has assumed a rampant attitude. How long will you be able to resist his fury? A fly, how will you fare in this wide conflagration? A hare, how long will you resist the strength of the lion? England, the mistress of the land and the sea, England, who is always invincible in war—England has sent seventy-five thousand soldiers against your country. How long will you be able to oppose their progress with a handful of troops? Defeat and insult are in store for you. Remember the

world-conquering Napoleon—Remember St Helena. Nothing is impossible for the British. We love you, and it is therefore that we desire your death.

Joubert, we love you though you are our enemy. We love you because you are a hero. You have inflicted great loss on us; you have killed and wounded and captured many of our soldiers. You have wounded our heart, but we still love you because you are a hero. It is our heartfelt desire to see you defeated and captured, but we still love you because you are a hero. We have read the *Ramayan* and the *Mahabharat*. We are admirers of Bhishma and Drona, Bhim and Arjun. We appreciate and praise the heroism of Ram and Lakshman, of Ravan and Indrajit. We appreciate the heroism even of a sworn enemy. We know that the Transvaal will be soon occupied by the British. We know that ere long the shouts of victorious English soldiers will fill the Boer country. We know this, and it is therefore that we desire the death of General Joubert in the zenith of his fame and glory.

BHARAT MITRA
Nov. 27th, 1899.

6. Referring to the Kaiser's visit to the Queen-Empress, the *Bharat Mitra* of the 27th November says that although the Kaiser's visit to England. it is said that the interview was private, it cannot be without some political motive.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 23rd, 1899.

7. A correspondent, writing from Kisorganj in the *Sanjivani* of the 23rd November, gives the following cases of outrage on women in the Mymensingh district :—

(1) On the 26th October last one Rajabannesa, living within the jurisdiction of the Bajitpur police-station, complained before the Subdivisional Officer of Kisorganj that she had been ravished by one Ram Chandra Nath on her way home from the village Chalbua.

(2) On the 26th October last one Bhanu Bibi deposed that one night she went with a woman named Saurabhi to see her mother, but Saurabhi, instead of taking her to her mother, made her over to one Achhir, and Achhir, Mamudali, Manir, Fazil and Abdul committed rape on her.

(3) One Dinanath Namasudra has deposed that his wife had been abducted by Kali Charan, Naba Chandra Acharyya and others.

(4) One Fazil Shaikh says that his wife had been abducted by Apchhar and Najamuddi.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
Nov. 23rd, 1899.

8. Referring to the Ahmedabad outrage case, in which a European soldier has been charged with violating the chastity of a respectable Indian lady, the *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 23rd November observes that it remains to be seen whether this case, like the Rangoon outrage case, ends only in a hue and cry, or in impartial justice. Female chastity in India must always be respected. It must not in any way be underrated.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 23rd, 1899.

9. Referring to the Sitamarhi case, the *Sanjivani* of the 23rd November writes as follows.—

The Sitamarhi case. Why this deterioration of the English character? Why does it prick an Englishman's sensibility to hear natives talk loudly? As for the Sub-Deputy Magistrate, he convicted the accused on facts not on the record of the case, in order to please his superiors. It is for these unscrupulous Magistrates that the Government is becoming unpopular. A feeling of discontent will spread all over the country if the Government does not take immediate action in the matter.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 24th, 1899.

10. The *Hitavadi* of the 24th November has the following with reference to the Sitamarhi case :—

The Sitamarhi case. The ignorance of law betrayed by the Sub-divisional Officer and the Sub-Deputy Magistrate of Sitamarhi in the Muzaffarpur district is so great that they should no longer be entrusted with the administration of justice. But, considering the existing circumstances, the reverse of

what we expect will most likely occur. Will Mr. Maude be transferred like Mr. Pennell?

11. A correspondent of the same paper complains that injustice has been done to some Settlement *amins* in the Birbhum and the Sonthal Parganas districts. These people went away on leave instead of serving on a pay of Re. 1-12 or Rs. 2-4 per month. For this they have been dismissed, and Hindustani *amins* have been appointed in their stead. Their leave allowance has not also been paid. These people were induced to go to Dumka with the hope of getting appointments, and they stayed there for about a month; but they have been disappointed.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 24th, 1899.

12. The *Bangavasi* of the 25th November has the following:—

BANGAVASI,
Nov. 25th, 1899.

The Chapra case. The Chapra Executive, from the Commissioner down to the Deputy Magistrate, are, according to the Sessions Judge's judgment, blamable in the eye of the public. Though punished by the Government. Judge Pennell has been deservedly praised by many. We do not like to speak anything more about the Chapra drama, but there is an epilogue to it which calls for a few remarks. Not only Indians, but also many high-minded Englishmen, have been pleased with Mr. Pennell for evincing that justice and uprightness which are natural in an Englishman. They have, on the other hand, been highly displeased with the Executive authorities of Chapra for their misconduct. *Capital*, the organ of the European mercantile community, writes:—

The cowardliness which the Executive authorities of Chapra have shown in this case was unparalleled. This mean conduct of some English officials makes all honest Englishmen hang down their heads in shame.

This is what *Capital* writes, but the *Pioneer* unblushingly writes otherwise:—

Fifteen months ago Mr. Pennell was censured by the High Court for finding fault with the Executive authorities of Mymensingh in his judgment in a case. He has taken vengeance for that censure by venting his spleen on the Chapra officials. It is a great surprise to us that a Judge of Mr. Pennell's experience should fall foul of his brother-Civilians in his judgment in this way.

Does the *Pioneer* mean to say that no Civilian Judge should disclose the faults of Civilian Magistrates, however serious they may be, and that he should try his best to conceal them? The *Pioneer's* morality, however, has offended many high-minded Englishmen, and one of them has replied to the *Pioneer* in its own columns in keen, cutting, regretful and angry language. We need not quote all that this correspondent has said. He writes in the following strain:—

The principle that a Civilian should never disclose the faults of a brother-Civilian is not true, even in the case of the Civilian Executive. Sir Antony MacDonnell is so popular because he does not follow this bad principle. In the Chapra case two Europeans—one Police officer and the other an Engineer—mercilessly thrashed an ailing constable. One sat on his back and struck him with his fist, and another struck him at the same time with a stick. Such an assault was, to say the least, cowardly. But, not satisfied with thrashing the poor man, these two officials set the machinery of the law in motion and had him sent to jail. This was cowardice in the extreme. This was adding insult to injury.

The *Pioneer's* correspondent has shown fairness and high-mindedness. The cowardice shown by the European officials of Chapra is rare even among European sailors. "One against one" is the rule of fighting even among them. But it was otherwise in the case of the Chapra officials. Six of them combined to ruin a poor native!

13. Referring to the Nursing case, the *Hindi Bangavasi* of the 27th November says that Mr. Pennell has submitted

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Nov. 27th, 1899.

Mr. Pennell. to the Bengal Government, through the Calcutta High Court, a statement supporting his judgment in the case. Mr. Pennell deserves our esteem and respect, although he has been punished by the Government. Many righteous Englishmen too are highly satisfied with his conduct.

Capital, which represents the mercantile community of Calcutta, has condemned the conduct of the Executive authorities in Chapra. But a correspondent of the *Pioneer* is very angry with Mr. Pennell, perhaps because the latter found fault with his brother-officials.

BANGA BHUMI,
Nov. 28th, 1899.

14. Referring to the Sitamarhi case, the *Banga Bhumi* of the 28th November writes as follows:—

The Sitamarhi case.

This case clearly proves how justice miscarries in the mufassal. It also shows how some Europeans look upon natives. What! some half-civilized natives should pass by the bungalow of an all-powerful Sub-divisional Officer talking loudly and without *saluaming* to him from a distance? This is unbearable! There are indeed some haughty officials who look upon us in this light, and it is only for fear of some high-minded officials that they cannot do us any harm. We know that it is wrong on our part to say such things against our rulers, but it is a matter of great regret that our rulers very often pass over the misconduct of the petty officers.

(d)—Education.

SRI-SRI VISHNU PRIYA-
O-ANANDA BASAR
PRATIKA,
Nov. 22nd, 1899.

15. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* of the 22nd November has the following:—

Lord Curzon on high education.

A perusal of Lord Curzon's Resolution on high education has taken us by surprise. The Government is not willing to do anything for the advancement of high education. But is it not the duty of a Government to give high education to its subjects? All the high officials of Government, before Lord Mayo, were in favour of high education. Lord Mayo looked upon high education with disfavour, and it is from his time that we have been hearing from time to time cries against it. Fortunately for India, Sir William Grey was then the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and he opposed Lord Mayo's proposal against high education, and the proposal was given up. Sir George Campbell, the successor of Sir William Grey, renewed the proposal, and Mr. Atkinson, the then Director of Public Instruction, protested in vain against it, and within a year the Patna, Berhampore, Krishnagar and Sanskrit Colleges lost all prospects of improvement. After that, Lord Northbrook appeared on the scene, and there was a change in the administrative policy. He was in favour of high education, and from his time the Government has supported high education. When Lord Curzon came we had little doubt that he would show his sympathy with high education. But we are disappointed. Compared with the entire population of India, the number of educated Indians is very small. There is scarcely one graduate to be found in 20 or 25 villages. Nothing has been done as yet towards the advancement of high education, and the people have not yet fully appreciated its benefits. We believe that the cause of high education will suffer greatly if the Government makes it over to the people so soon.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 23rd, 1899.

16. The *Sanjivani* of the 23rd November has the following:—

Mr. Reuther, Inspector of Schools.

Mr. Reuther, Inspector of Schools, Dacca Circle, joined his present post in April 1898. During this short time he has become well known to the Dacca public. It is very strange that his oppression and high-handedness are going unchecked, even at a place like Dacca. The report on education in the Dacca Division for the year 1898-99 has just been published with Mr. Reuther's notes and remarks. This report will strike everybody as a very strange document. Babu Kumud Bandhu Basu, after serving many years with credit as Deputy Inspector of Schools, was promoted only a few years ago to be the Assistant Inspector. Kumud Babu is a just, able and experienced officer. But Mr. Reuther has recorded the following remarks against him:—

"The Officiating Assistant Inspector of Dacca, Babu Kumud Bandhu Bose, has not, I regret to say, rendered me much valuable assistance during the year, and on some occasions when consulted has misled me. He has rendered the work of general control more difficult and less pleasant than it might have been if he had taken up the duties of his office in a more loyal and humble spirit. He has shown himself overconfident in his own abilities, and has been contentious and wanting in tact. He has been intolerant of correction, even in the mildest form. With very few exceptions, he has not attended office during the

year when he was at head-quarters. His judgment has been impaired by a liability to moral weakness, which in an officer of his long service has surprised me, and, on the whole, his tenure of office has not been without disappointment and weariness to me. He has given me trouble in drawing up the present annual report, which has led to needless delay in its transmission. I regret I cannot recommend that he be confirmed in his present appointment."

What more could be written against an officer of position? How could Mr. Reuther censure officers who have served so long with ability under other Inspectors? We have never heard of an officer of position so censured in an official report. We hope that the Director of Public Instruction will place no value on these unfounded remarks.

The writer also prefers the following charges against Mr. Reuther:—

(1) Mr. Reuther's mode of inspection is curious. On many occasions he inspects schools from his boat. The teachers have to come to him on board the boat with the inspection book in which he writes his remarks. We have come to know that he inspected the Barisal Zilla School at night.

(2) Mr. Reuther having stopped *punkha* pulling in his office, nothing is spent on this account. Still Rs. 1,400, annually sanctioned for contingencies in his office and from which the *punkha* charge was formerly paid, is fully spent, leaving no balance. Mr. Reuther cannot explain how this sum is spent. Perhaps it is not known to all that no account need be given to the Government of the expenses under the head of contingencies.

(3) Mr. Reuther lives in a two-storied house, on the ground floor of which he has his office. The rent of this house is Rs. 120. As Government pays only Rs. 60 as house-rent, the remaining Rs. 60 has to be paid by him out of his own pocket. But he pays only Rs. 50, and the remaining Rs. 10 is paid out of the examination fund. Kumud Babu gets only Rs. 60 for his contingent expenses. So, on Mr. Reuther's demanding some money from that fund for the rent of his office, Kumud Babu refused to pay without his written order.

Mr. Reuther has promoted a clerk in his office twice within one year, disregarding the claims of others. He compelled his clerk to buy a half-finished boat which was being made for him. He also twice appointed the father of this clerk, a retired head-master of a private school, as examiner, in violation of the ordinary rules. It is known to every one at Dacca that Mr. Reuther receives presents wherever he goes on inspection. When he went to inspect the schools at Faridpur, he took presents from many persons. The *Faridpur Hitaishini* published the fact, and the Government called for an explanation from Mr. Reuther, and also asked him to prosecute the paper. But neither did he send any explanation, nor prosecute the paper. On the other hand, he asked the Deputy Inspector of Faridpur, Babu Bhuvaneshvar Gupta, to try to make the editor of the paper retract what he had written and apologise to him. Bhuvaneshvar Babu being unsuccessful in this, Mr. Reuther became angry with him, and has recorded the following remarks against him in his report for the present year:—

"The Deputy Inspector of Faridpur, Babu Bhuvaneshvar Gupta, is energetic, but wanting in tact and stability, and in consequence is like a broken reed at a critical moment, when an opinion is needed or a report required."

Yes, those who can help him in "a critical moment" are sure to win his favour.

17. A correspondent writes in the *Basumati* of the 23rd November, with reference to Babu Abinas Chandra Chatterji, Inspector of Schools, Burdwan Circle (see Report on Native Papers for the 25th November, 1899,

Babu Abinas Chandra Chatterji,
Inspector of Schools.

BASUMATI,
Nov. 23rd, 1899.

paragraph 24):—

Abinas Babu has a coal mine at Mahutdingi, which is very close to Barakar, and is in the Burdwan district. It is known to every one that Abinas Babu, when at Barakar on official duty, supervises the management of his own mine, and I have seen employes in his mine coming to him when at Barakar. It does not look well for an Inspector of Schools to be engaged in trade within his own jurisdiction, or to canvass for votes for a candidate and employ subordinates to do that work.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Nov. 24th, 1899.

18. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 24th November has the following:—

Lord Curzon's educational review of education in India gives us cause for serious apprehension. It is only seventy years since high education was introduced in the country, and since its introduction it has been fostered and encouraged by our rulers. Lord Mayo, it is true, formed the intention of promoting primary at the cost of high education, but his untimely death prevented the doing of any harm. After Lord Mayo, Sir George Campbell tried to deal a death-blow to the cause of high education, but his hand was stayed by the liberal-minded Viceroy, Lord Northbrook. But of late the cry against high education has been renewed, the *status* of the Patna, Hooghly, Rajshahi, Berhampore, Krishnagar, Dacca and Cuttack Colleges has been reduced, and Lord Curzon's educational policy, as foreshadowed in his resolution, naturally causes serious apprehension as regards the future of high education.

It cannot be said that the expenditure on education in this country is heavy. Our Government spends very little on education in comparison with what is spent in other countries for the same purpose. But even this small expenditure is looked upon by the Government as a heavy burden. Crores of rupees are spent by the Government in wars, in maintaining a large army, in paying European officials; but this heavy expenditure never draws its attention. It is the expenditure on the education of this fallen nation that is considered too heavy to bear. The expenditure on high education is considered to be a waste of money. Such a policy as this cannot meet with our approbation, and we have no hesitation in saying that it reflects great discredit on educated English officials.

This educational policy requires a little examination. Since the introduction of higher education in this country, primary education also has made rapid progress. Educated Indians have opened schools in their native villages, which are maintained at the cost of the public. The promotion of primary education does not require a large expenditure or organization. But organization and a large outlay are inevitable in the case of maintaining a college. But, situated as we are at present, our resources and power of organization are extremely limited. In our Congress speeches we boast of our capacity for self-government, but, to tell the truth, we do not possess that national strength and vitality which lie at the root of self-government. In these days we helplessly depend upon the Government for everything. In days gone by, our rich men used to liberally encourage education, but nowadays a good undertaking, which is not backed by official influence, is sure to languish for want of support and encouragement. Thanks to our rulers, we have lost that power of self-government which we possessed before; we depend helplessly upon the Government for everything. This being the case, high education will die if the Government withdraws from it its help and support.

The Presidency College of Calcutta has lost its past glory and pride. The Government has reduced the number of Professors, and the places of the brilliant scholars who formerly adorned its professional chairs have been taken by a few low-paid Bengali and some highly-paid European Professors of ordinary merit. It is our firm conviction that English literature and science cannot be well learnt except at the feet of learned and experienced English Professors. The Government should therefore increase the number of first class Professors and maintain at least three model colleges in Bengal at three centres, namely, Patna, Dacca, and Calcutta. In Bengal the number of qualified Professors is very small. Men of the ability and scholarship of Messrs. Tawney, Mann, and Eliot are not to be found among the Professors of these days. It is true that high education will not be abolished from the country even if the Government should curtail its expenditure on it. But in the place of the well-managed State Colleges we shall have ill-managed private colleges. The model colleges will be gone. It is impossible for us to conduct a college on the lines of a model college like the Presidency College of Calcutta. The private colleges are no better than educational shops. Their management is highly defective and unsatisfactory. They do not even provide the students with sufficient sitting accommodation. High education is a costly commodity which cannot be had in a private college. Some years ago the conductors

of the private colleges of Calcutta induced the Calcutta University to fix the fee of the B.A. classes in their colleges at Rs. 4. They promised to increase the efficiency of their colleges by appointing efficient Professors. But the management of these colleges shows no signs of improvement. To tell the truth, no good can be expected from colleges which are conducted on purely mercenary lines. Under these circumstances it is impossible for us to do without the help of the Government.

Lord Curzon is a highly educated ruler and a distinguished Etonian. He is also a writer of note and is the author of five or six books of great merit. In his Convocation speech he laid great stress on the responsibility of the Government in the matter of education. It is therefore a great regret that he should lay the axe at the root of high education so soon. We have full sympathy with the promotion of primary education in the country, although we do not approve of Mr. Pedler's scheme. But we want the spread of both primary and high education. The Government should not withdraw from the field of high education simply on the score of expense.

19. The *Saraswat Patra* of the 25th November writes the following with reference to the Education Resolution of the Government of India:—

SARASWAT PATRA,
Nov. 25th, 1899.

The Government of India on high education.

Though we may deliver long speeches in the Congress and write long articles, still we are not fit to take independent charge of anything. Not to speak of high education, a little bit of self-government makes us lose our head and misuse the power which is given to us. It is our firm conviction that high education cannot exist for a moment if it is left to the people and the Government keeps aloof from it. The country and public business will equally suffer if high education is abolished in this way. We cannot support the present educational policy of Government, and we therefore humbly beg the Government not to leave the future of high education, the pride and glory of the country, to the tender mercies of the Fates. Better compel the rich men of the country to contribute towards education rather than withdraw yourselves from the management of high education.

20. The *Prativasi* of the 27th November thus complains of the defects in the selection of text-books by the Calcutta University:—

PRATIVASI,
Nov. 27th, 1899.

The Calcutta University.

No model of good style and thoughtful writing is set before the students. They have to read extracts from the writings of many authors without being given an opportunity to assimilate the style and thoughts of any. The selections, again, which the students are required to read are sometimes so stiff and unintelligible in language that they often fail to understand their meaning. The text-books for the Entrance and F.A. examinations are often so difficult that it is impossible to understand them without some knowledge of Psychology and Metaphysics. Dr. P. K. Ray's Logic was for a couple of years removed from the F.A. curriculum, but it has again come back. Deschanell's Physics was for some time included in the B.A. curriculum, but in no college was that book taught in such a manner as might enable the students to understand it. The text-book on Conic sections read by the F. A. students is full of mistakes, and both the students and their Professors are disgusted with it. The students buy the book, but do not find in it everything that they want. The few articles in the book do not help them in studying mathematics in the higher classes. Green's History of England has been removed from the list of text-books for the B. A. examination, and Gardiner's History has been appointed in its place. Was it urgently necessary to make this change?

Last year the questions set at the B.L. examination gave rise to a good deal of agitation. A question set at the Studentship examination also caused some discussion at the time. The following question on mixed mathematics is the question under notice:—

"A system of forces in space is such that the resolved parts of the forces in any direction form a system in equilibrium. Prove that the forces must themselves be in equilibrium. Prove also that the converse is not true."

Now, if forces acting upon an object do not manifest themselves in any direction, it does not necessarily follow that the object will remain in equilibrium. The object may be in motion round its own centre. The question,

therefore, naturally led one to suspect that the Examiner who set it had not exercised proper caution. In the University Calendar, however, the question appears in a modified form. It appears within inverted commas over the words "Examine this." We do not know whether this emendation was sanctioned by the University. The University with its easy-going morality may pride itself upon this subsequent emendation of a question set at the examination, but this craftiness of the University authorities does not set before the students a high ideal of duty and justice. It makes us hang down our heads in shame. A great man like Benjamin Franklin has the high-mindedness to say in his autobiography that his life was full of mistakes, but we are too proud to confess even the least mistake committed by us. If an English official, who has acquainted himself with the history of our University, proposes to take away even the remnants of self-government still left to us, what arguments will the native press then have to urge against his proposal?

BHARAT MITRA,
Nov. 27th, 1899.

21. The *Bharat Mitra* of the 27th November is surprised that Lord Curzon, himself a highly educated man, is opposed to high education in India. His resolution on the report on education in India goes the length of saying that the Government should no longer bear the cost of high education. The position of high education in India is, therefore, very critical. It is the British Government which introduced high education in India, and it is the same Government which is going to discourage it.

Lord Curzon's educational policy.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

CHARU MIHIR,
Nov. 21st, 1899.

22. The *Charu Mihir* of the 21st November says that cholera and malaria are prevalent in many parts of Tangail, district Mymensingh, owing to scarcity of water. The District Board ought to take speedy measures to remove this want of the villagers. It may be partially removed by excavating canals in many places. The project of joining the Lauhajang river with the canal on the north of Pakhrail, for which the Tangail Local Board sanctioned a certain sum of money, has not been carried out owing to the opposition of the zamindars of Chandigram. The inhabitants of the Pakhrail, Chandi, Vishnupur, Jalalia and Dhulatia villages will have their water-scarcity removed if this project is carried out.

Water-scarcity in Tangail.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Nov. 21st, 1899.

23. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 21st November says that the post of Engineer for the Burdwan water-works fell vacant, and a passed mechanic of the Sibpur College applied for it, but the Sanitary Engineer told him that he could not approve of a native being appointed to that post. Is not the mechanical instruction given to the students of the Sibpur College satisfactory? So far as we know, the method of instruction there is not defective, and the students of the College are quite able to work machinery. Why, then, this objection on the part of the Sanitary Engineer?

The Burdwan Water-works Engineer.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Nov. 22nd, 1899.

24. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 22nd November has the following:— Malaria prevails in Berhampore from October to March. No special measures have yet been taken to check its progress. Mr. Skrine when Magistrate of Murshidabad assigned the following as the causes of malaria in Berhampore:—

Malaria in Berhampore.

- (1) Collection of filthy water in Vishnupur and other *bils*.
- (2) Rotting of leaves in the jungle, which is so dense that the sun cannot penetrate it.
- (3) Obnoxious gases from damp places which find their way into the town.

To check the progress of malaria, the Vishnupur and other *bils* must be filled up and the jungle at Kasimbazar cleared. Mr. Skrine also said something against the drainage system of the town. If these are the causes of malaria at Berhampore, their removal rests entirely with the Government. But these are not the only causes of the prevalence of malaria in this place. There are pits or excavations in every ward (*para*) of the town, and the filthy water from the houses of the residents and the leaves of trees fall into them. In October and November more water remains in these pits and more leaves fall into them

than at other times, and more gas is consequently generated at that time. Though these pits facilitate the drainage of houses, still they are dangerous to health. The spread of malaria will be somewhat checked if these pits are filled up. Many people who caught malaria by living in houses close to these pits have been cured only by changing their residence. This clearly shows that these pits are very dangerous to health. There are places which the municipal carts cannot reach, and some arrangements ought to be made to fill up these excavations. *Mehters* very often deposit night-soil by the road-side—a practice not to be found in any other municipality. This is all due to the negligence of the authorities. It is only when the death-rate of the town increases that the authorities try to improve the sanitary condition of the town by burning sulphur. The men who are entrusted with the improvement and supervision of the sanitary condition of the town sadly neglect their duty.

25. The *Barisal Hitaishi* of the 22nd November says that the District Engineer of Barisal has also charge of the Public Works Department, and has to devote the greater portion of his time to the Government work, and the work of the District Board is consequently neglected. The Government pays him something for doing its work. The District Board has increased his pay in consideration of his pressure of business. But in spite of this increase of pay the work of the District Board will suffer, as a man serving two masters serves him best who is most powerful. The District Engineer ought to be made to resign his Government employment, and if his work be indeed heavy, an assistant ought to be given to him.

BARISAL HITAIISHI,
Nov. 22nd, 1899.

26. The *Nava Yug* of the 23rd November complains of the practice now prevailing in the Calcutta Municipality of taking away the tickets from hackney carriages which have not taken fresh licenses when such carriages are actually carrying passengers. In the case of female passengers this practice is extremely objectionable. Tickets from such carriages should be taken away when they are in the stables.

NAVA YUG,
Nov. 23rd, 1899.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

27. The *Barisal Hitaishi* of the 22nd November says that the public will be much benefited if the road from Barisal to Navagram through Karapara be made to meet the road from Barisal to Banaripara. The junction will not be expensive, and will benefit very many more than are now served by the Barisal-Navagram road.

BARISAL HITAIISHI,
Nov. 22nd, 1899.

28. The *Basumati* of the 23rd November has the following:—Luggages are often booked on railways without being weighed. They are also sometimes underweighed. Passengers often take undue advantage of the irregularities of the luggage department. They often carry big luggages with them, for fear of losing them, to the great inconvenience of fellow-passengers. If heavy luggages are placed in the brake-van, passengers have not to suffer for want of room. There ought to be shelves in the brake-van as there are shelves in the milk-van. Such shelves will greatly facilitate the booking of personal luggages and prevent the commission of mistakes. There ought also to be special luggage vans, and the guard of the train must not have any concern with these, as all of them are not honest men. An able luggage inspector ought to be appointed to supervise the working of the luggage department.

BASUMATI,
Nov. 23rd, 1899.

Fish and many other articles of food come by railway parcel, and the owners of these parcels have to give presents to the railway employes. In order to make up for their loss on this account, they pay less than the actual fare, and therefore make no complaint. The railway Babus, if favourably disposed, can pass rotten fish as fresh, and the railway doctors do not properly do their duty. Many unwholesome articles of food are in this way brought into the market and sold.

29. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 24th November complains that the mail and the mixed trains between Goalundo and Calcutta all run at night, and the passengers by these trains who have to wait for the night train to Damukdia are put to great

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Nov. 24th, 1899.

inconvenience and hardship. The train for Damukdia waits at the station at a little distance from the platform. If the train is placed alongside the platform, passengers for Damukdia may wait in the train. But if this suggestion is not accepted, the Railway authorities will do well to build a large and commodious waiting-room for passengers.

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,
Nov. 27th, 1899.

30. The *Tripura Hitaishi* of the 27th November complains that the passengers, specially female passengers, are greatly inconvenienced for want of a platform in the Comilla station on the Assam-Bengal Railway.

There are also no intermediate class carriages on this line. If this want is removed, the passenger traffic will greatly increase.

(h)—General.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Nov. 22nd, 1899.

31. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* of the 22nd November has the following—

Transfer of Government officers. Many are no doubt curious to know why Government officers are so frequently transferred from one place to another. These transfers cause the Government a good deal of expense, and those who are transferred both expense and trouble. Why then these frequent transfers? If for the purpose of preventing corruption among the officers, there would not be so many serving in one and the same place for a long time. There must, therefore, be some mystery underlying these frequent transfers.

The question of transfer has been raised on the transfer of Mr. Pennell to Noakhali. Some say that he has been transferred because the Government is angry with him for disclosing secrets. But it is not possible that the Government should be guilty of such an unjust act. We, therefore, sent a clever man to the Secretariat to ascertain the cause of Mr. Pennell's transfer. He has come to us furnished with the causes of the transfers of Government officers. Here is, for instance, a list which he has submitted, showing why the transfers gazetted in the last Gazette have been made. The names of persons and places given in the list are of course fictitious—

Mr. T. Harvey is transferred from Tippera to Burdwan because he secured a letter of recommendation from Mr. Bodkin.

Mr. J. Kelmor is transferred from Murshidabad to Hooghly because his wife is *enciente*. She wants a dish of oysters (*gugli*), and oysters are plentiful in Hooghly.

Babu Bipranath Bagchi is transferred from Saran to Alipore because he ought to be transferred.

Mr. C. Bambos is transferred from Balasore to Cuttack because he is suffering from toothache and the Civil Surgeon of Cuttack is a good dentist.

Babu Anukul Chandra Mitra is transferred from Hazaribagh to Chittagong because Mr. Bonbon wishes to go to that healthy station.

Mr. J. Foot is transferred from Howrah to Palamau because he is known to have been implicated in an unlawful affair in Howrah.

The order of transferring Mr. Campbell is cancelled, as there was no cause for transferring him. If there was any cause, that cause no longer exists.

The order transferring Mr. G. But is cancelled because he does not want to be transferred.

Babu Kanai Lall Dutta is transferred from Sylhet to Barisal because matter for filling a space of two inches in the *Calcutta Gazette* was wanting.

Babu Someswar Palit is transferred from Jessore to Krishnagar because the Lieutenant-Governor wants him to be transferred.

Babu Dokari Pakrasi is transferred from Bhagalpur to Krishnagar as the Secretary has nothing to do.

Mr. Johnson is transferred from Burdwan to the 24-Parganas because he is a good amateur actor, and the European residents of Calcutta want him to live near Calcutta and open an amateur theatrical party.

Mr. Hudgson is transferred from Saran to Howrah because his brother is a railway employé there, and it will be more economical for him to live with his brother.

Mr. John Henry is transferred to Rangpur because he is an acquitting Magistrate.

Babu Hara Kumar Datta is transferred from Katwa to the *Sadar* because the Magistrate has not a good opinion of him.

Babu Kalacharan Mukharji is transferred from Jahanabad to Satkhira because he is lenient in passing sentences.

Babu Abhaya Charan Ghoshal is transferred from Bagerhat to Khulna because he convicts only 60 *per cent.* of the accused.

Babu Narendranath Ghosh is transferred from Meherpur to Basirhat because he is in the habit of trying cases without previously consulting the Magistrate.

Mr. Carpenter, District Judge of Darbhanga, is transferred to Barisal because he is not on good terms with the District Magistrate.

We asked our informant how he came by all this information, and he said that he had derived his information from the clerks, but he could not say how the clerks had derived theirs. We are of opinion that our informant was hoaxed by the clerks.

We asked our informant why the list did not contain the name of Mr. Pennell, and the following dialogue ensued:—

Informant.—Mr. Pennell got diarrhoea.

Ourselves.—Are you mad? Why should diarrhoea be the cause of his transfer?

Informant.—I hear that Mr. Pennell had got plague and was transferred to East Bengal. If any one is to die of plague, let the *Bángáls* (people of East Bengal) die of it.

32. The *Sanjivani* of the 23rd November is glad that, unlike Sir George White, Lord Lansdowne and Lord Elgin, Lord Curzon's sporting circular. Curzon has thought it necessary to make special rules for preventing English soldiers from oppressing natives. By a recent circular he has prohibited English soldiers from using long-range guns when out hunting. But natives will be only partially protected by this circular. So long as English soldiers are not compelled to look upon natives as human beings, no circular of any kind will protect them from oppression. Rules ought also to be made preventing all Europeans from using long-range rifles when out hunting, as Europeans, who are not soldiers, also kill natives.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 23rd 1899.

33. The same paper has the following:—
The Government ordered Rao Radhanath Rai Sahib, Assistant Inspector of Schools, Orissa Circle, to send up copies of the text-books prescribed for the Orissa Circle containing seditious matter. The Rao Sahib accordingly sent up some books of this nature, but did not send his own book, which also falls under that category. Some one brought this to the notice of the Government, and the Assistant Inspector was at last compelled to send up his book. We hear that the Government has compelled him to retire and deprived him of his title for this fault. We think that he has been rightly punished, but it is a matter of great regret that the Government is looking upon books containing anything of a patriotic nature as seditious. We hear that the Government has called for an explanation from Babu Nabin Chandra Sen, the author of "*Palasir Yuddha*," for the patriotic statements contained in that book, and has threatened him that he would be refused pension if those portions were not omitted. The book was published long ago, but was not considered seditious till now. The Government is only showing its weakness by doing all this. The English officials, who are lovers of independence, are desirous of destroying the very germs of independence in the native mind. But this will cause more harm than good. We are astonished to see such weakness in the Government. The Bengalis helped the English in establishing their rule in India. Why, then, does the Government look on them with suspicion?

SANJIVANI.

34. The same paper has the following:—

The Hudson question.

A correspondent, writing in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* from Shillong, says that Mr. Cotton, on hearing of the oppression committed by Mr. Hudson at Manipur, not only degraded him for six months, but also transferred him to Sylhet. This punishment was thought inadequate by the Government of India, who degraded Mr. Hudson for a year. Mr. Hudson submitted a petition to the Chief Commissioner of Assam showing that he would suffer pecuniary loss if he were

SANJIVANI.

transferred to Sylhet. On receiving this petition, the kind-hearted Mr. Cotton cancelled his order transferring him to Sylhet, and the Government of India has not interfered with this. In our opinion it is not advisable to send Mr. Hudson to Manipur again. We hear that if he is transferred to the Garo, Naga or Lushai Hills, he will not have to suffer any pecuniary loss. So, if he is transferred to one of those hilly places he will receive a kind treatment, whilst justice will be vindicated. And then when he will be promoted, he ought to be placed under an experienced officer, either in Sylhet or any other place, before he is given charge of any place.

BANGAVASI,
Nov. 25th, 1899.

35. The *Bangavasi* of the 25th November is glad to understand that the Government is making an enquiry into the conduct and occupations of the Gayalis of Gaya and their treatment of the pilgrims. It will be a great gain to the pilgrims if the good Gayalis are marked out from the bad.

BHARAT MITRA,
Nov. 27th, 1899.

36. The *Bharat Mitra* of the 27th November does not understand why the people of Madras are complaining against the circular issued by the Government of Madras prohibiting the teachers in Government schools from taking part in political agitation. The Government can prevent its servants from doing anything it likes.

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
Nov. 29th, 1899.

37. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* of the 29th November writes as follows:—
The decentralisation of the office of the Comptroller of Post Office India. Mr. Badsha's oppression of the clerks of his office is now at its height. About five hundred clerks have been ordered to go to Delhi and Nagpur. Mr. Badsha has been entrusted with the carrying out of this scheme of decentralisation. We need not repeat how this official made himself famous by his attempt to reduce his office expenditure. He never increased the pay of a subordinate even when he deserved increase and often made one clerk do the work of two. In this way he caused great mismanagement in his office. He is now treating the poor clerks with a high hand in carrying out the scheme of decentralisation. Most of the clerks who have been ordered to leave their country with their families draw small salaries. In their native country they somehow manage to eke out their income, but now they will have to leave everything—their homestead, their household gods, and even their old parents, sisters and aunts. This is too much for a Hindu. About three hundred clerks have petitioned the Viceroy, and the Indian and the British Indian Associations have promised them their support. But the Comptroller has already received the Secretary of State's sanction to his scheme. We do not know what is in store for the poor clerks.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 23rd, 1899.

38. The *Sanjivani* of the 23rd November has the following:—

The Cooly Bill. The tea-planters have begun to oppose the proposal made by the Government to raise the wages of the cooly. A planter, writing in the *Englishman*, says that the planters have no objection to the raising of wages if they are allowed to make the cooly do more work; that considering the amount of work which coolies have to do at present, their existing wages are sufficient; that if a cooly wishes, he can perform twice as much work as he does at present, and that many coolies are seen to do extra work in the afternoon after having finished their allotted work in the morning. But the Government will easily understand that the planters are actuated by an evil motive in making this opposition. There may be some laborious coolies who do extra work after finishing their allotted task, but the majority of them cannot finish their allotted work even if they labour the whole day, and have to suffer deduction from their wages on this account. This will be clear from official papers, and the pale and emaciated figures of the coolies are an evidence of this. If wages are raised, the income of the tea-planters will be affected, and therefore their objection. A representative of the tea-planters has obtained a seat in the Council, and he will certainly object to this proposal. But there is no one in the Council to plead the cause of the coolies. Will not the Government nominate somebody to represent them in the Council?

39. The same paper says that Lord Curzon has given his sanction to the Municipal Bill, disregarding all entreaties and expostulations of the rate-payers, who had memorialised against it. He has asked the Government of Bengal to inform the petitioners that there is nothing in their petition to make him change his opinion. In spite of all his good acts, the Municipal Act will remain a blot on Lord Curzon's administration. This Act heralds the destruction of Lord Ripon's Local Self-Government. Lord Ripon's successors are doing away with the improved methods of administration introduced by him one after another.

The passing of the Calcutta Municipal Bill by the Viceroy.

SANJIVANI,
Nov. 23rd, 1899.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

40. The *Hitavadi* of the 24th November has the following:—

The famine.

The present famine, though not so widespread as the last, is not less acute. Those who live in Bengal have no idea of the distress prevailing in the Punjab, the Central Provinces, Bombay, Rajputana and most parts of the North-Western Provinces. They do not know how people are dying in these places from starvation and how the hungry are eating the roots and leaves of trees. It appears from official reports that about a million of people are working on relief works. About this time during the last famine, only 51,564 people worked on relief works in India and Burma.

HITAVADI,
Nov. 24th, 1899.

The official report, from the very manner of its preparation, is not likely to give one an idea of the number of famine-stricken people in the country. It only shows the number of those who are forward enough to seek public relief. In this country about 90 *per cent.* of people are illiterate. They know nothing of the granting of public relief and have not the courage to apply for it even if they know that they can have it. Many of the famine-stricken have not also the strength to go out in search of relief. As for women, their modesty as well as timidity stand in the way of their applying publicly for relief.

The present famine is not so widespread as the last, but, thanks to Lord Curzon's good government, the number of people on relief works this year is much larger than the number three years ago. But three years ago the reins of government were in the hands of Lord Elgin, who remained inactive and indifferent, even when people were dying, hungry mothers were forsaking their little children, whole families were committing suicide to save themselves from starvation, and the cry of the famine-stricken had moved the hearts even of the people of England. But not so Lord Curzon. He bestirred himself as soon as he came to perceive the smallest indications of scarcity, and he has been acting with great caution and circumspection from the very first. It is his heartfelt desire that not a single person should die from starvation during his rule. He, therefore, caused relief works to be opened as soon as the famine made its appearance. This is why the number of people on relief works is so large this year.

Last year both the Government and the public opened their purse-strings for the relief of the famine-stricken; yet the British public had to be appealed to. But this year the Transvaal war has monopolised the attention of the people of England, and they are raising a fund for the help of the widows and orphans of the soldiers killed in the war. Nothing can be expected this year from that quarter. The Government of India as well as the Indian public should, therefore, be more liberal in helping the distressed people.

41. The *Manbhum* of the 28th November has the following:—

The best famine policy.

Famine was not unknown in Ancient India. But it did not occur so often as at present: it was not an every-day incident. An outbreak of famine did not therefore cause in those days so much fear and anxiety as it does in these. To tell the truth, famine now-a-days stares us in the face as a serious problem, and it has become urgently necessary to devise special means for its prevention. To do this, the local authorities should possess sincere sympathy with the people and an intimate acquaintance with their condition. The rulers are an alien people, and it is simply impossible for them to enter into the minds of the people except

MANBHUM,
Nov. 28th, 1899.

through sympathy—broad and sincere sympathy. If the local authorities from the very first try to ascertain the economical condition of the people, their income and expenditure, they will be able to know beforehand whether famine will break out in their midst, and, if it should break out, how measures can be taken to put it down speedily. The annual outturn of the *rayat's* land, his income and expenditure, the local export of food-grains, the amount of food-grains kept in stock—all these should form the subject of enquiry by the local authorities. Full and exhaustive information on these subjects can alone enable the Government to successfully cope with a famine. Unhappily, the local authorities have very few opportunities of coming into close contact with the local public. We say "opportunities" advisedly, for there are certainly sympathetic and large-hearted European officials who have the desire but not the opportunities to come into close contact with the people and sympathise with them in their weal and woe. Routine duty and red tape stand in their way. Routine and red tape may be of use in the administration of the country, but they are worse than useless in the doing of the noble and sacred duty of supporting and maintaining the people. For the purposes of good government it is of no use to write reams of paper and use yards of red tape in the office located in a palatial building in the town. With parental affection and sympathy, should you go from door to door and personally enquire into the thousand and one wants of the people before you can expect to know their real condition and enthrone yourselves in their hearts. It is this knowledge and this sympathy that are the best and most efficient means of preventing or coping with famine. It should therefore be the first and foremost care of the Government to increase the facilities for acquiring this knowledge and showing this sympathy with the people.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Nov. 22nd, 1899.

42. The *Medini Bandhav* of the 22nd November says that Gafur, a *chuprasi* of Mr. Faulder, the District Magistrate of Midnapore, fell under a cart when out with him on tour, and was seriously injured. Mr. Faulder made every effort to save him, and even ordered a special train from Khargapur to convey him to Midnapore. The man, however, died. On arriving at Midnapore, the Magistrate sent for Gafur's son and paid him Rs. 30 for performing the funeral ceremony of his father. Such sympathy with a servant is rare in these days, when natives are frequently kicked to death by Europeans.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Nov. 24th, 1899.

43. With reference to the religious discussion held at Deultala, in the Basirhat subdivision of the 24-Parganas district, between the Hanifi and the Mahammadi sects (*vide* Report on Native Papers for 18th November, paragraph 41), the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 24th November observes that the decision of the Subdivisional Officer of Basirhat, who acted as the referee on the discussion, cannot be held by the Musalman community as final. In such discussion the opinion of only a non-Musalman, who is an Arabic scholar and is conversant with the Koran, the Hadis and the Feka, can carry weight. Religious truths cannot be established by public discussion. If differences of opinion are to be settled, let pious Musalmans hold a friendly discussion among themselves, or, what is better, let the *Ulama* of both sects write tracts proving the superiority of the doctrines of each sect.

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,
Nov. 27th, 1899.

44. The *Tripura Hitaishi* of the 27th November has the following:—
Political agitation by Indians. We are desirous of getting political rights from our rulers, and with this view we are carrying on political agitation in India and in England. We are making speeches and writing books. But do we deserve political rights? We are not the people of a free independent State. We are a subject-people, and as such cannot have political rights. It does not look well that we carry on political agitation. We can pray, but we should not demand. We can beg, but we should not agitate. If we had satisfied ourselves with humbly representing our grievances to our rulers instead of carrying on political agitation, we would have been more successful. The British officials would in that case have listened to our prayers, but they now turn a deaf ear to our demands. Our

political agitation and speech-making have displeased our rulers. We should therefore change our policy. We should not blindly imitate the methods and policy of a free people.

URIYA PAPERS.

45. The *Samvadvahika* of the 9th November is glad to learn that the Maharaja of Jodhpur has been relieved of the charge of maintaining two cavalry regiments by the Government of Lord Curzon, and that this will afford great relief to Jodhpur, where scarcity of food is great. The writer further hopes that the despatch of a certain number of regiments to South Africa at the cost of Great Britain will enable the Indian Government to relieve effectually those parts of India that are suffering terribly from a dire famine.

SAMVADVARIKA,
Nov. 9th, 1899.

46. The *Utkaldipika* of the 18th November is of opinion that the grace which the Collector of Cuttack has granted to the zamindars of that district by allowing them to pay their revenue into the Treasury up to the 25th of November current is very much appreciated by the latter. The writer, however, contends that the new *jama* is so large and the difficulty of realising rent is so great that unless Government intervenes and amends the rent law in the interests of the zamindars, their zamindaris will run the risk of public sale, and this is a state of things which is not at all desirable.

UTKALDIPKA,
Nov. 18th, 1899.

47. The same paper is sorry to point out that Parikud in Puri is always subject to famine, and that the Raja of that place is not rich enough to help his subjects in any way. He has spent a good deal in that direction, and that has exhausted his resources. In former years the manufacture of salt at Parikud was a great help both to the Raja and his subjects, and this useful industry has been abolished by an unwise order of Government. The writer hopes that Government will take the case of Parikud into their serious consideration and give immediate orders for the revival of the indigenous industry, for loss of life is a greater calamity than a little deviation from the adopted fiscal policy of the Government.

UTKALDIPKA.

ASSAM PAPERS.

48. The *Silchar* of the 15th November says that Mr. Cotton had intended to build a hostel for Assamese students in Calcutta with a view to give them high education. The people of Assam were not satisfied with this arrangement, and they petitioned him to establish a college in the province. It is very gratifying that Mr. Cotton, on receiving the petition, has given up his own project, and a second-grade college is shortly to be opened in Gauhati.

SILCHAR,
Nov. 15th, 1899.

49. The same paper has the following:—

The Cachar settlement. The settlement of Cachar has at last been finished and the *jamabandi* is made. The rate of rent has been so much enhanced that the raiyats of Cachar appointed Kamini Babu, pleader, to lay their grievances before the Assam Government. No good result, however, has come out of his advocacy. We hear that there have been irregularities in the settlement work, such as mistakes as to names, boundaries and classes. Fourteen to fifteen thousand objections have already been filed. Some justice will be done to the raiyats if at least their objections are carefully considered. But it will take time to do so, and we hear that the settlement office will soon be abolished. The rate of rent has been enhanced, and if the mistakes complained of are allowed to remain unrectified, the raiyats will suffer heavily. Rent has been fixed upon uncultivated lands and the *jama* has been wrongfully increased. Paddy is sold cheap in the mufassal and is dear in the towns; but the rent fixed is the same in towns and in the mufassal. The rent of first-class *bastu* land has been raised from Rs. 8-4 to Rs. 10-12 and of first-class paddy land from Rs. 7-2 to Rs. 10-12. The rent of uncultivated land has been raised from Re. 1 to Rs. 3-8. Now, consider what an enormous burden has

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been placed on the poor raiyats of Cachar. They have already spent Rs. 1,400 to Rs. 1,500 for taking copies of the survey maps and on other accounts. We, therefore, humbly ask the kind-hearted Lord Curzon to consider the matter.

SILCHAR,
Nov. 15th, 1899.

50. The same paper says that Mr. Barrett, the Head of the Forest Department in Assam, is himself a laborious and experienced officer, but many people are being oppressed by his contractor who seizes everything which floats down the river. The other day he seized cane worth Rs. 80 to Rs. 90 belonging to one Iyachhin Mia, of Dedar Khosh, which was floating down the Sonai ghat and sold some of it. The rest is under police custody.

51. The same paper has an article on the Cooly Bill taken from the *Sanjivani* of the 2nd November without acknowledgment (see Report on Native Papers for 11th November 1899, paragraph 32).

SILCHAR.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 2nd December, 1899.